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FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8757  
INFO AMEMBASSY BISHKEK PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT PRIORITY  
COMUSNAVCENT PRIORITY  
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JOINT STAFF WASH DC PRIORITY  
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S E C R E T MANAMA 000377

NOFORN

E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/24/2029  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [BA](#)  
SUBJECT: FORMALLY SEEKING ACCESS TO MANAS AIR BASE  
ALTERNATIVES

REF: A. STATE 64053  
[1](#)B. B MANAMA 313

Classified By: Charge d'Affaires a.i. Christopher Henzel for reasons 1.  
4 (b) and (d)

[1](#)1. (S) In the absence of foreign minister Khalid bin Ahmad Al Khalifa, who is traveling to the U.S. with Crown Prince Salman, CDA made reftel demarche to Ambassador Saeed Al Faihani, advisor to the foreign minister, at the MFA June 23. Assistant Defense Attache accompanied. Al Faihani confirmed he had been briefed on the USG's previous conversations with Bahraini leaders, during which we signaled that we were considering formally requesting the use of Isa Air Base for both Afghanistan and maritime security missions (ref B). Faihani undertook to forward our request immediately to the foreign minister. Faihani was unable to estimate when we would receive a reply.

[1](#)2. (SBU) We note that the Crown Prince and foreign minister are scheduled to meet on June 25 with Secretary of Defense Gates and Deputy Secretary of State Steinberg, and on June 26 with the Vice President. Flagging this request in those meetings would help facilitate a prompt Bahraini response.

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HENZEL